



Massachusetts
Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs



Memorandum of Agreement Between the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, And the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (MA EOEA), in coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) share a commitment to recognize and reward environmental leadership in the protection of air, water, and land. To that end, MA EOEA and MA DEP developed the Massachusetts Stewardship Program, and EPA created the National Environmental Performance Track program. These voluntary incentive and recognition programs encourage program members to focus on issues important to their communities, to take a creative approach to solving local problems, and to employ partnerships and networking with neighborhood citizens to achieve environmental goals.

MA EOEA, MA DEP, and EPA believe that we can achieve more by working together than by pursuing our goals independently. Coordinating efforts will enable us to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs as we meet the opportunities that will accompany their growth and development. As program membership increases, so do our opportunities to encourage organizations to commit to practices that yield results beyond compliance— and ensure the higher level of environmental protection that MA EOEA, MA DEP, EPA, program members, and the American public all seek.

1. General Provisions

Through this Memorandum of Agreement, MA EOEA, MA DEP, and EPA commit to creating the best value for our customers; reducing the resource requirements of the MA EOEA, MA DEP, and EPA staff and the administrative burdens of member organizations; creating the greatest amount of incentives, flexibility, and recognition for program members; and reinforcing and encouraging continual improvement in environmental performance. While encouraging each program to maintain its own identity and ensure the integrity of each program's application standards, MA EOEA, MA DEP, and EPA pledge to:

- Coordinate the application processes of the Massachusetts Stewardship Program and the National Environmental Performance Track program so eligible applicants can apply to both programs simultaneously.
- Work with facilities to identify ways to streamline and facilitate the application process for both programs.
- Provide to eligible facilities the assistance necessary to apply and be evaluated expeditiously for acceptance into both programs.
- Develop incentives that reduce program members' administrative burdens, such as reduced reporting and expedited permitting, where feasible, in recognition of their high levels of performance.

- Coordinate the delivery of incentives to achieve the maximum environmental benefit and minimize transaction costs.
- Identify for program members a high level point of contact in each program.
- Produce marketing tools and coordinate recruiting and recognition events.
- Identify opportunities to use innovative methods to comply with existing regulations, and work cooperatively to implement them.
- Communicate the measurable environmental results achieved by the Massachusetts Stewardship Program and the National Environmental Performance Track programs to the public.

2. Future Commitment

MA EOE, MA DEP, and EPA will continue to pursue other actions together to enhance our programs and reward program members for their leadership in environmental protection. We will continue to look for additional ways to coordinate our programs so both program members and the environment benefit.

Our focus will be to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all partners as we work to align our program requirements and develop additional means to deliver recognition, flexibility, and incentives to our environmental leader members. We look forward to developing a detailed work plan that further defines how our programs will work together and anticipate a cleaner future for the environment within Massachusetts and the United States as a result.

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into this 24th day of April 2002, and remains in effect unless amended by mutual consent.

Robert Durand
Secretary
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Christine Todd Whitman,
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Lauren Liss
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator
EPA New England